

## **Appleby Archaeology**

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> at Northgate, Milburn

### **Present**

Phyl Rouston	Chair
Martin Railton	Research
Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
Martin Joyce	Newsletter
Heather Edwards	
Richard Stevens	Secretary

### **New committee member**

Phyl thanked Heather Edwards for offering to rejoin the committee & welcomed her to the meeting.

### **Apologies**

Carol Dougherty  
Stephen Walker

### **Notes of the last meeting**

The notes of the last meeting were agreed to be a correct record.

### **1/3/13 Matters arising**

#### **1/12/12**

- Talk to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> forms at the Grammar School: Still ongoing. (**Richard/Phyl**)
- Richard had finally contacted the YAC leader Anna Hall at Kendal museum. Unfortunately, the outcome was not very encouraging, the YAC is clearly not a viable feeder for adult community groups. Membership ends at 16 and at that age, the children either lose interest or go on to further/higher education & possibly follow archaeology as a career. The YAC leaders are more mature & would probably already be members of other societies. The practical side of the YAC is not extensive & what there is at Kendal is administered by Annie Hamilton-Gibney.

Richard had offered the Kendal YAC a talk by either Trish Shaw or Martin R & left it to Anna to contact the Group via the website if they wanted to take the offer up. The meeting concluded that this was a subject which requires continuous review. (**All**)

- Martin R again updated the meeting on the progress of the Facebook page. Once again, there had been little progress since the last meeting. This lack of activity amongst the membership had implications for online alternatives to the newsletter. (See AOB.)

### **2/3/13 Membership**

Carol had emailed Martin J with a current membership list, which showed that there were 58 renewals &/or new members. 8 single & 6 joint memberships had not so far been renewed. The meeting thought that some might be simply late, whereas others would probably not renew because of illness or other reasons.

### **3/3/13 Treasurer's Report**

Mike presented the current state of the accounts at 7<sup>th</sup> March, showing a balance of £793.94 which included income from renewals.

#### 4/3/13 Research

Martin said that he had noted that ploughing had recently begun at a number of locations & that he would investigate the possibility of a fieldwalking day on Brackenber Moor within the next 2-3 weeks. He had a list of volunteers & would contact them directly. He also said that he would organise another finds washing/examination evening at Wardell-Armstrong following the fieldwalking. **(Martin R)**

Martin has written to the Appleby Golf Club regarding the detailed survey & part excavation of one of the barrows between the clubhouse & the Druidical Judgement Seat. These barrows were well clear of the fairways & would cause little or no disruption to players. The suggestion is that this would be towards the end of August & would be one of the Altogether Archaeology modules for 2013, as already discussed with Paul Frodsham. Regarding the conservation of the cemetery finds, Martin said that Paul seemed to be trying to delay this for now with a view to including it into a general post/excavation & conservation exercise later on. **(Martin R)**

#### 5/3/13 Correspondence

The latest email edition of the Appleby-in-Westmorland Society Newsletter had been received & circulated to committee members

Richard had received a request from JB Heritage Consultancy in Carlisle for any information regarding Tommy's Barn in Brampton, for which they were compiling a building report. However, we were unable to assist.

Richard updated the meeting regarding the confusion over CBA North. The organisation had decided to carry on as they are (ie. As a regional CBA group) and would be reviewing their mission statement later in the year. It was agreed that we should wait to see what transpired & take the decision on whether or not to rejoin, at extra cost, at that time. **(Richard)**

Phyl said that she had received a letter from CBA concerning the 2013 Festival of Archaeology, this year being held between the 13<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> of July. The meeting concluded that we would not be organising an event and that no response to CBA was required.

Richard had been contacted by the Lake District National Park who were in the process of organising a volunteer network similar to the North Pennines AONB Altogether Archaeology network. An inaugural meeting had been held at Brockholes & although Stephen had earlier said that he could represent the Group, in the event he was unable to. However, most of the information is on the LDNP website & Richard said that he would send round some details to members by email. Phyl said that she would mention the network at the next meeting. **(Richard/Phyl)**

#### 6/3/13 Programme

The 2013 summer events and the 2013/14 programme were discussed at length. Richard suggested that since he had not heard from Dot Boughton, he would write to her again explaining that we'd had to make a decision about the date of her talk, which he proposed would be on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2014. Mark Graham would be asked if he would talk on 11 February. Martin R said that he might be able to persuade Ian Miller to give a talk, either in December 2013 or March 2014. This arrangement would leave just one unfilled slot & it was suggested that Richard approach Tim Padley at Tullie House. **(Richard)**

As mentioned in the last minutes, Alastair Robertson will give his rescheduled talk on 15 May & this date has been advised to members via the newsletter.

**(Post meeting note: Blaise Vyner had to cancel the talk scheduled for 12 March and would now be offered March 2014 instead. Martin R confirms that Jeremy Bradley from Oxford Archaeology North has agreed to speak to the Group on Medieval pottery in December.**

Regarding summer events, one suggestion was for a walk around the prehistoric stones at Shap & Richard agreed to approach the Shap Local History Society to see if they could provide a guide. **(Post**

**meeting note: Jean Scott Smith From Shap LHS has confirmed that she can guide us on a 2 hour walk on 20<sup>th</sup> June beginning at 6.30pm.)** Other suggestions were for a day trip to Segedunum (Wallsend Fort) either using car sharing or a minibus (September 15<sup>th</sup>), a possible visit to an Iron Age excavation being conducted by W-A Archaeology near Shap and finally a visit to this year's excavation at Papcastle, again car sharing or minibus. The latter two ideas to be followed up by **Richard & Martin R.**

### 7/3/13 AOB

- There was a lengthy discussion about the newsletter. Martin will include his survey with the Spring newsletter. He said that should the membership want to continue with the status quo, he would be happy to continue as is. He felt reluctant to produce the newsletter in PDF form because columns do not translate well to reading on a computer screen and he felt it unlikely that many members would print the document. In any event, a printed PDF does not have the same quality as a printed & distributed publication.

Martin R said that he thought that many members would be happy reading a PDF on screen & that this might be offered as an option. Richard explained that the Lancaster Society, which he had just joined, charged a few pounds extra in membership fees to those members who wanted a printed newsletter to cover postage costs.

Other options discussed were to develop further the Facebook page or to produce an interactive website ie. A blog, but it was generally felt that many members would be unwilling to use that method of communication. All agreed that the newsletter, in some shape or form, is a very valuable publication which binds the membership together.

The conclusion was that if offered a PDF option, some members would probably accept the change but others might leave. Results of the survey would be discussed when they have been analyzed.

- There was a short preliminary discussion concerning the request from a member to renew his subscription by standing order but it was agreed that both Carol & Mike would need to be present to discuss this matter.
- It was agreed that in future, all talk reports for the C&W Herald would be routed via the Secretary so that he was sure that the report had been sent in.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Date and Time of next meeting: **Thursday June 27th 2013 at Pear Tree Cottage, Skirwith, 7.30pm.**